



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Isao TAKAHASHI

Group Art Unit: 2612

Application No.: 09/840,914

Examiner: James M. Hannett

Filed: April 25, 2001

Docket No.: 109357

For: RECORDING MEDIUM FOR DATA FILE MANAGEMENT, APPARATUS FOR  
DATA FILE MANAGEMENT, HANDLING APPARATUS FOR IMAGE DATA, AND  
IMAGE CAPTURING SYSTEM

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 14, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally  
elects Group II, claims 11 and 12, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 11 and 12 is  
sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims  
would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is  
respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made  
without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and  
examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must  
examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions"  
(emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present  
application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative  
examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:TMN/tje

Date: January 31, 2005

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